

Appl. No. 10/707,105
Amendment dated May 22, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 23, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 4 and 5. These sheets, which include Figures 4 and 5, replace the original sheet including Figures 4 and 5.

Attachment: two (2) replacement sheets

REMARKS

In the February 23, 2007 Office Action, the drawings were objected to and claims 1-13 stand rejected in view of prior art. Claim 13 also was rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In the February 23, 2007 Office Action, all of the claims stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the February 23, 2007 Office Action, Applicants have submitted herewith corrected drawings, have included clarifying remarks, and have amended claim 13 as indicated above. Further, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, and 12 and Figure 4 to correct form and/or typographical errors, and have added claims 14-16. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 1-16 are pending, with claims 1, 7, and 13 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On May 11, 2007, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Nguyen and Primary Examiner Colilla, who is in charge of the above-identified patent application. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nguyen and Examiner Colilla for the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application during the Interview of May 11, 2007.

Claim for Priority

It was indicated that the certified copies of the priority documents have not been received by the USPTO. Applicants are not claiming priority to the earlier filed Japanese Patent Application.

Drawings

In item 1 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for lacking a legend designating Figure 5 as prior art. Further, upon review an error in Figure 4 was noticed. Specifically, “Device Image” was misspelled in Figure 4. In response, Applicants have submitted herewith corrected drawings correcting the aforementioned errors in Figures 4 and 5. Applicants believe that the drawings are now correct. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

In item 2 of the Office Action, claim 13 was rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, claim 13 has been amended to claim a computer readable medium as suggested. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants’ admitted prior art. In response, Applicants have included clarifying remarks.

In particular, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 recites that the display unit displays an image of an image forming device, and that the abnormality display unit displays with emphasis on the image the location of the paper supply unit or paper discharge unit having the detected abnormality. Applicants respectfully assert that the displayed image of the image forming device recited in claim 1 refers to a graphical representation. Applicants respectfully assert that the indication in the image of the image forming device of Figure 5 of

the present application indicates a default cassette, which is not an abnormality. In Figures 4 and 5 of the present application, Applicants respectfully assert that the image of the image forming device relates solely to the image indicated by reference characters 101 and 201. Applicants respectfully assert that the aforementioned reference characters are provided only as an example, and are not intended to limit the invention.

Applicants respectfully assert that this structure is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 7, and 13, are not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicants believe that the dependent claims 2-5 and 8-11 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 1 and 7, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not anticipate the independent claims 1 and 7, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claims.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In item 4 of the Office Action, claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,754,452 (Kurtz). In response, Applicants have provided clarifying comments as mentioned above.

Applicants respectfully assert that the admitted prior art does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 1 and 7 for the reasons mentioned above. Further,

Applicants respectfully assert that Kurtz is cited to show a sound abnormality generating unit, and fails to disclose or to suggest a display unit as claimed. Since neither reference discloses or suggests this feature, Applicants respectfully assert that combination of references also fail to disclose or to suggest this feature.

Applicants respectfully assert that this arrangement is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. It is well settled in U.S. patent law that the mere fact that the prior art can be modified does not make the modification obvious, unless the prior art suggests the desirability of the modification. Accordingly, the prior art of record lacks any suggestion or expectation of success for combining the patents to create the Applicants' unique arrangement of an abnormality management device.

Moreover, Applicants believe that dependent claims 6 and 12 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they respectively depend from independent claims 1 and 7, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 7, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

New Claims 14-16

Applicants have added new claims 14-16, which depend on independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Applicants believe that these claims are allowable for the aforementioned reasons claims 1, 7, and 13 are allowable. Further, Applicants believe that these claims are further allowable because they contain additional limitations.

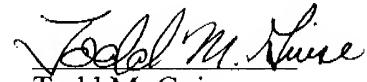
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Examination and consideration are respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-16 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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